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PRESS RELEASE

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Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446

Cell phone: +389 (0)70 367 547

Email: bvelickovska@usaid.gov

USAID launches the second phase of school renovations

On March 27th, the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP) and Municipality of Tetovo celebrated the launch of the second phase of school renovations at the "Lirija" primary school in Tetovo. During this phase, PEP will renovate 32 schools in 32 municipalities across Macedonia.

"Lirija" is one of the first beneficiaries of this assistance, receiving over \$30,000 to replace old wooden windows. During the ceremony, USAID officials joined the Mayor of Tetovo, PEP team and the School Principal to symbolically mark the launch of renovations by dismantling an old window and installing a new one.

"The children are our future, and they deserve to have a good learning environment. I am sure that this generous investment will help us achieve this goal. This investment means a lot to us as a municipality, but it means even more to these and future generations of students," said School Principal Murat Hasani.

PEP will renovate up to 100 primary schools during its five years of implementation. The project's renovation component supports the creation of better learning environment and the transfer of responsibilities over school facilities to municipal governments. The project also works to increase the use of information technology, to improve the quality of math and science education, and to strengthen school-based assessment in Macedonian primary schools.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.